

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-35 remain in the application. Claims 1, 13, 22-25, 27, 30, and 35 have been amended. Claims 33-34 have been withdrawn.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-3, 5-6, 9-11, 21-28, 30-32, and 35 have been rejected as being anticipated by Great Britain Patent No. 1,085,743 (hereinafter "GB '743") under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In the sixth paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 4, 7, 12, 29, and 32 have been rejected as being unpatentable over GB '743 in view of Weisperber (US Pat. No. 4,643,414) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

In the second paragraph on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 13-20 have been rejected as being unpatentable over GB '743 in view of Platsch (US Pat. No. 6,038,998) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claims 1, 22-25, 27, 30, and 35 have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 24, lines 16-25 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 22-25, 27, 30, and 35 call for, inter alia:

the ionic fan generating and accelerating gas ions by a discharge for accelerating non-ionized gas by pulse transmission and generating the air stream.

According to the invention of the instant application, a voltage is applied at the wire (6) and brings a discharge at the front end (12) of the wire (6), with the result that gas ions are generated in the vicinity of the front end (12). The gas ions undergo acceleration in the direction of the grid (8) in the electrostatic field between the wire (6) and the grid (8). The non-ionized gas atoms or molecules (20) are also accelerated in the direction of the grid (8) by the pulse transmission from the gas ions thereto. An air stream is thus generated in the ionic fan (2) and leaves the ionic fan (2) as a directed flow (22). See Fig. 1 of the drawings of the instant application.

GB '743 does not teach providing an ion fan to push down printing sheets to an impression cylinder by blowing or air pressure without the air pressure being provided from a hose. The Examiner is incorrect in stating that the electrostatic means disclosed in GB '743 creates blowing or a wind or air pressure without the air pressure being provided from the hose. The electrostatic means of GB '743 is constructed and arranged for electrostatically charging a sheet moving along a surface to hold the sheet against the surface (see column 1, lines 34-38). Thus, it is not an air stream but only electrostatic force that holds the sheet.

Further, GB '743 teaches that the apparatus may be arranged to cause a sheet to hug a rotating cylinder in which a stream of air (first option) may be directed along a cylinder to affect the holding of a sheet thereagainst, or in which an electrostatic field (second option) for electrostatically charging the sheet to cause the sheet to hug a moving cylinder may be established, or in which both air and electrostatic charging (third option = combination) may be used simultaneously (see column 2, lines 44-52). Thus, the air stream and the electrostatic forces are two different options to be used.

Further, GB '743 teaches that the air stream (which leaves opening 34, see Fig. 3) is directed at about 54 degrees to the electrostatic field (which leaves through an opening 30, see Fig. 3 and column 2, lines 53-61). Thus, the air stream cannot be created by the electrostatic field.

GB '743 clearly describes that the sheet handling apparatus is provided with two different means for holding down a sheet. The first means is an electrostatic means which charges the sheets by applying an electrostatic field so that the sheet is attracted to the cylinder surface by electrostatic forces. The second means is an air stream which is provided by air under pressure through a hose or conduit and which pushes the sheet by the forces created by the air stream to a cylinder surface. Nowhere in GB '743 can a teaching be found that the electrostatic means creates blowing or a wind or air pressure as alleged by the Examiner. On the contrary, the teaching of GB '743 clearly distinguishes between electrostatic forces and air pressure forces which are created by different means.

In contrast, the amended claims of the instant application make it clear that the ionic fan generates and accelerates gas ions by a discharge so that non-ionized gas is accelerated by pulse transmission and the air stream is generated. Thus, the

air stream is an effect of the working ionic fan and not an effect of other means as disclosed in the prior art.

According to the teaching of GB '743, the electrostatic means electrostatically charge the sheet so that GB '743 implicitly teaches that charged particles are transferred from the electrostatic means to the sheet. However, this does not automatically mean that in addition non-ionized gas is accelerated and thus an air stream is generated. Since GB '743 teaches an additional means for generating an air stream, a person skilled in that art would only apply such a voltage to the electrostatic means that causes charged particles to be accelerated to the sheet but does not cause pulse transmission to and thereby acceleration of non-charged particles.

Clearly, GB '743 does not show the ionic fan generating and accelerating gas ions by a discharge for accelerating non-ionized gas by pulse transmission and generating the air stream, as recited in claims 1, 22-25, 27, 30, and 35 of the instant application.

The secondary references do not make up for the deficiencies of GB '743.

Claims 1, 22-25, 27, 30, and 35 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 25, 27, and 30, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-32 and 35 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

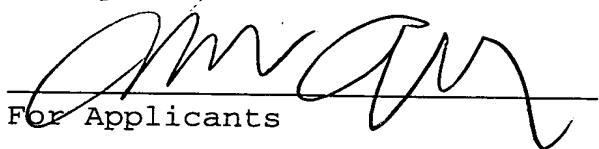
Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect

Applic. No.: 09/927,555
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to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of
Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicants

LAURENCE A. GREENBERG
REG. NO. 29,308

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101